

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following Listing of the Claims.

## LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument comprising:
  - a sample flow chamber;
  - an excitation source;
  - at least one of a light focusing element positioned to receive light emitted by said excitation source;
  - a detector for detecting light, said detector positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source; and
  - a correlator coupled to said detector, said correlator for processing data received at said detector and providing data comprising autocorrelation data, crosscorrelation data, or a combination thereof.
2. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising an emission filter positioned to transmit light to said detector, said emission filter adapted to transmit light having a wavelength range greater than the range of wavelengths ~~wavelength of light~~ emitted by said excitation source.
3. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein said light focusing element comprises a fiber optic.
4. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising an aperture positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source.
5. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein said light focusing element comprises a focusing lens.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

6. (Original) The instrument of claim 3, wherein said fiber optic is coupled to said excitation source.

7. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising a second light focusing element positioned to focus light emitted by said excitation source in a sample volume.

8. (Original) The instrument of claim 7, further comprising a fiber optic coupled to said excitation source and said first light focusing element.

9. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising a ~~sample chamber and~~ a second light focusing element, said first light focusing element comprising a fiber optic having a first end disposed in said sample chamber, said second light focusing element being focused on the first end of said fiber optic.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~10~~ 9 further comprising an emission filter positioned to receive light transmitted through said second light focusing element and to transmit said light to said detector.

12. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein said light focusing element comprises a first fiber optic coupled to said excitation source, said instrument further comprising a second fiber optic positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source.

13. (Original) The instrument of claim 12, wherein said second fiber optic is in a perpendicular relationship to said first fiber optic.

14. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 12, wherein said second fiber optic is in a linear axial relationship with said first fiber optic.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

15. (Original) The instrument of claim 1 further comprising a second light focusing element, said first light focusing element being in a perpendicular relationship to said second light focusing element.

16. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 1 further comprising a second light focusing element, said first light focusing element being in a linear axial relationship with said second light focusing element.

17. (Original) The instrument of claim 12 further comprising an emission filter positioned to receive light from said second fiber optic and to transmit light to said detector.

18. (Original) The instrument of claim 4 further comprising an emission filter positioned to receive light from said aperture and to transmit light to said detector.

19. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~18~~ 12 further comprising a third fiber optic positioned to transmit light from said emission filter to said detector.

20. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 1 wherein said light focusing element comprises a first fiber optic coupled to said excitation source, an end of said first fiber optic extending into said sample chamber, said instrument further comprising:

~~a sample chamber, an end of said first fiber optic extending into said sample chamber;~~  
a second light focusing element; and  
an emission filter positioned to receive light from said second light focusing element and to transmit light to said detector.

21. (Original) The instrument of claim 20, wherein said second light focusing element is focused on said end of said fiber optic.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

22. (Original) The instrument of claim 20, wherein said second light focusing element comprises a lens.

23. (Original) The instrument of claim 20, further comprising a second fiber optic positioned to receive light from said emission filter and to transmit light to said detector.

24. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising  
a first dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light from said excitation source;  
a second light focusing element positioned to receive light reflected from said dichromatic mirror;  
a first aperture;  
a third light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted through said dichromatic mirror and through said first aperture; and  
a second dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light transmitted through said third light focusing element,  
said first detector being positioned to receive at least one of light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror and light transmitted through said dichromatic mirror.

25. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 24 67, further comprising a first emission filter positioned to receive at least one of light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror and light transmitted through said dichromatic mirror.

26. (Original) The instrument of claim 25 further comprising  
a second emission filter positioned to receive light transmitted through said second dichromatic mirror, said first emission filter positioned to receive light reflected by said dichromatic mirror; and  
a second detector positioned to receive light transmitted through said second emission filter.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

27. (Original) The instrument of claim 25 further comprising a first fiber optic positioned to receive light passing through said first emission filter and to transmit light to said first detector.

28. (Original) The instrument of claim 27 further comprising a second fiber optic positioned to receive light passing through said second emission filter and to transmit light to said second detector.

29. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 24 67 further comprising a first reflective mirror positioned to receive light reflected from said first dichromatic mirror and to transmit said light to said second light focusing element.

30. (Original) The instrument of claim 26 further comprising a first reflective mirror positioned to receive light reflected from said first dichromatic mirror and to transmit said light to said second light focusing element.

31. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 24 67, further comprising a fourth light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted by said first dichromatic mirror and to focus said light on said first aperture.

32. (Original) The instrument of claim 31, wherein said second light focusing element is an infinity corrected objective and said fourth light focusing element comprises a tube lens.

33. (Original) The instrument of claim 26, further comprising a fourth light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted by said first dichromatic mirror and to focus said light on said first aperture.

34. (Original) The instrument of claim 27, further comprising a fourth light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted by said first dichromatic mirror and to focus said light on said first aperture.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

35. (Original) The instrument of claim 28, further comprising a fourth light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted by said first dichromatic mirror and to focus said light on said first aperture.

36. (Original) The instrument of claim 29, further comprising a fourth light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted by said first dichromatic mirror and to focus said light on said first aperture.

37. (Original) The instrument of claim 30, further comprising a fourth light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted by said first dichromatic mirror and to focus said light on said first aperture.

38.(Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising:

a first dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light from said excitation source;

a second light focusing element positioned to receive light reflected by said first dichromatic mirror;

a third light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted through said dichromatic mirror;

a second dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light passing through said third light focusing element;

a first component comprising at least one of a first aperture and a first fiber optic; and

a first detector positioned to receive at least one of light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror through said first component and light transmitted through said second dichromatic mirror through said first component.

39. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~38~~ 68, wherein said component is a first aperture.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

40. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~38~~ 68, wherein said first detector is positioned to receive light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror through said first component, said instrument further comprising

a second component comprising at least one of a second aperture and a second fiber optic; and

a second detector positioned to receive light transmitted through said second dichromatic mirror and through said second component.

41. (Original) The instrument of claim 40, wherein said first component is a first aperture and said second component is a second aperture.

42. (Original) The instrument of claim 40, wherein said first component is a first fiber optic and said second component is a second fiber optic.

43. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~38~~ 68 further comprising a first emission filter positioned to receive light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror.

44. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~38~~ 68 further comprising a first emission filter positioned to receive light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror; and

a second emission filter positioned to receive light transmitted through said second dichromatic mirror.

45. (Original) The instrument of claim 43 wherein said first component comprises a first fiber optic positioned to receive light transmitted through said first emission filter and to transmit said light to said first detector.

46. (Original) The instrument of claim 45 further comprising a second fiber optic positioned to receive light passing through said second emission filter and to transmit said light to said second detector.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

47. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim 38 68, further comprising a reflective mirror positioned to receive light reflected from said first dichromatic mirror and to transmit said light to said second light focusing element.

48. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising:

a first dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light emitted by said excitation source;

a second light focusing element positioned to receive light reflected by said first dichromatic mirror; and

a first emission filter positioned to receive light transmitted through said first dichromatic mirror and to transmit light to said detector.

49. (Original) The instrument of claim 48 further comprising a fiber optic positioned to receive light from said first emission filter and to transmit light to said detector.

50. (Original) The instrument of claim 48 further comprising an aperture positioned to receive light from said first emission filter and to transmit light to said detector.

51. (Original) The instrument of claim 48 further comprising a first reflective mirror positioned to receive light reflected by said first dichromatic mirror and to reflect said light to said second light focusing element.

52.(Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising

a first fiber optic positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source;

a beam splitter positioned to receive light from said first fiber optic;

a third fiber optic coupled to said beam splitter;

a first emission filter positioned to receive light from said third fiber optic;

a fourth fiber optic coupled to said beam splitter;



U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

a second emission filter positioned to receive light from said fourth fiber optic; and  
a second detector positioned to receive light from said second emission filter,  
said first detector being positioned to receive light from said first emission filter.

53. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~52~~ 69 further comprising a fifth fiber optic positioned to receive light from said first emission filter and to transmit said light to said first detector.

54. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~52~~ 69 further comprising a sixth fiber optic positioned to receive light from said second emission filter and to transmit said light to said second detector.

55. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~52~~ 69, wherein said first fiber optic is in a perpendicular relationship to said first light focusing element.

56. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim ~~52~~ 69, wherein said first fiber optic is in a linear axial relationship with said first light focusing element.

57. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein said excitation source is a laser.

58. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, wherein said excitation source is a multi-line laser.

Claims 59 and 60 (Canceled)

61. (Original) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising an excitation light attenuation device.

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

62. (Currently Amended) The instrument of claim + 61, wherein said excitation light attenuation device comprises a neutral density filter, a shutter, an acousto-optical coupler, a pockels cell, or a combination thereof.

63. (Currently Amended) A portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument comprising:

a chamber through which a liquid sample can flow, said chamber being positioned such that the confocal plane of said instrument is contained within said chamber;

a monochromatic light source;

a light focusing device adapted to focus light emitted by said monochromatic light source on a sample;

a detector capable of detecting light;

a fiber optic positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said light source, said fiber optic being coupled to said detector; and

a correlator coupled to said detector, said correlator being capable of processing data received at said detector and providing data comprising autocorrelation data, crosscorrelation data, or a combination thereof.

64. (Original) An article comprising:

a carrying case, and

the portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument of claim 1 disposed in said carrying case.

65. (Original) An article comprising:

a carrying case, and

the portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument of claim 31 disposed in said carrying case.

66. (Canceled)

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

67. (New) A portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument comprising:

an excitation source;

a first light focusing element positioned to receive light emitted by said excitation source;

a detector for detecting light, said detector positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source;

a correlator coupled to said detector, said correlator for processing data received at said detector and providing data comprising autocorrelation data, crosscorrelation data, or a combination thereof;

a first dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light from said excitation source;

a second light focusing element positioned to receive light reflected from said dichromatic mirror;

a first aperture;

a third light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted through said dichromatic mirror and through said first aperture; and

a second dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light transmitted through said third light focusing element,

said first detector being positioned to receive at least one of light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror and light transmitted through said dichromatic mirror.

68. (New) A portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument comprising:

an excitation source;

a first light focusing element positioned to receive light emitted by said excitation source;

a first detector for detecting light, said detector positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source;

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

a correlator coupled to said detector, said correlator for processing data received at said detector and providing data comprising autocorrelation data, crosscorrelation data, or a combination thereof;

a first dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light from said excitation source;

a second light focusing element positioned to receive light reflected by said first dichromatic mirror;

a third light focusing element positioned to receive light transmitted through said dichromatic mirror;

a second dichromatic mirror positioned to receive light passing through said third light focusing element;

a first component comprising at least one of a first aperture and a first fiber optic; and

a second detector positioned to receive at least one of light reflected from said second dichromatic mirror through said first component and light transmitted through said second dichromatic mirror through said first component.

69.(New) A portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument comprising:

an excitation source;

at least one light focusing element positioned to receive light emitted by said excitation source;

a detector for detecting light, said detector positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source;

a correlator coupled to said detector, said correlator for processing data received at said detector and providing data comprising autocorrelation data, crosscorrelation data, or a combination thereof;

a first fiber optic positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source;

a beam splitter positioned to receive light from said first fiber optic;

a second fiber optic coupled to said beam splitter;

U.S.S.N. 10/633,385

a first emission filter positioned to receive light from said second fiber optic;  
a third fiber optic coupled to said beam splitter;  
a second emission filter positioned to receive light from said third fiber optic; and  
a second detector positioned to receive light from said second emission filter,  
said first detector being positioned to receive light from said first emission filter.

70. (New) A portable fluorescence correlation spectroscopy instrument comprising:

a sample chamber;  
an excitation source;  
a first light focusing element comprising a fiber optic positioned to receive light emitted by said excitation source;  
a second light focusing element, said fiber optic having a first end disposed in said sample chamber, said second light focusing element being focused on the first end of said fiber optic;  
a detector for detecting light, said detector positioned to receive light emitted by a sample excited by said excitation source; and  
a correlator coupled to said detector, said correlator for processing data received at said detector and providing data comprising autocorrelation data, crosscorrelation data, or a combination thereof.